

Message Text

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D/HA/PW:FSIEVERTS

M:TMOSELEM

EA/EX:EECHAMPAGNE

S/S:REWOODS

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R 290046Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CASE, SREF, VS, F

SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM

REF: 75 STATE 199866

1. FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 26 REQUESTED DEPARTMENT TO REIMBURSE GOF FOR AIR FARE (NINETY-ONE DOLLARS EACH) FOR TRANSPORTATION OF THREE AMCITS FROM SAIGON TO BANGKOK ON FRENCH FLIGHTS. THE THREE AMERICANS NAMED (NO FIRST NAMES PROVIDED) ARE DAWSON (PRESUMABLY ALAN DAWSON, UPI CORRESPONDENT IN BANGKOK); KOWLES (PRESUMABLY MISSIONARY ALEXANDER KOWLES); AND CHING (POSSIBLY YEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEONG CHING).

2. AS USG GUARANTEED REPAYMENT TO GOF FOR TRANSPORTATION OF AMCITS UNABLE TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT WISHES TO EXPEDITE THIS REPAYMENT (IF EMBASSY HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO). DEPARTMENT PRESUMES THAT DAWSON WOULD BE ABLE TO REPAY GOF DIRECTLY IN BANGKOK. (DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT DAWSON APPARENTLY REMAINED IN SAIGON FOR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES AND THUS PRESUMABLY DOES NOT EXPECT USG TO PAY FOR HIS SUBSEQUENT TRANSPORTATION.)

3. WE RECALL KOWLES AS ELDERLY MISSIONARY FROM DA NANG OF UNSPECIFIED DENOMINATION AFFILIATION. IF KOWLES IS STILL IN BANGKOK, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO INQUIRE WITH HIM OR HIS ORGANIZATION REGARDING REPAYMENT FOR HIS TRANSPORTATION.

4. THE ONLY CHING WE WERE AWARE OF IN SAIGON WAS YEE LEONG CHING. WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THIS CHING HAD LEFT SAIGON, AND RECENTLY ARRANGED FOR HIS WIFE IN PHILIPPINES TO SEND MONEY TO HIM FOR SUBSISTENCE. WE ALSO INCLUDED YEE LEONG CHING ON LIST WE PROVIDED MONTGOMERY SELECT COMMITTEE OF PERSONS WE BELIEVED WERE STILL IN VIET-NAM AND WANTED TO LEAVE. REQUEST EMBASSY CONFIRM WITH FRENCH EMBASSY WHETHER CHING HAS DEPARTED VIET-NAM AND IDENTITY OF 'CHING' FOR WHICH GOF DESIRES REPAYMENT.

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL IF EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN FROM FRENCH EMBASSY A LIST OF AMCITS WHO HAVE DEPARTED SAIGON ON FRENCH FLIGHTS. WE CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN REPORTING REGARDING THESE FLIGHTS, INCLUDING THEIR FREQUENCY, NUMBER OF PERSONS CARRIED, AND ARRIVAL OF AMCITS FROM VIET-NAM. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF OUR AND CONGRESSIONAL FOCUS ON DEPARTURE OF AMCITS FROM SAIGON AS INDICATOR OF VIET-

NAMESE ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES.

6. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN BANGKOK WOULD INFORM USG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF ANY AMCITS WHO ARE UNABLE TO PAY COSTS OF TRANSPORTATION FROM VIET-NAM. AMEMBASSY BANGKOK COULD THEN ENSURE EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION OF CITIZENSHIP OF AMCITS UNABLE TO PAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THESE COSTS, AS WELL AS PROMPT REPAYMENT OF GOF WHICH WE CONSIDER IMPORTANT, SO AS NOT TO PREJUDICE FUTURE TRAVEL OF AMCITS FROM VIET-NAM.

8. FYI: ACCORDING TO GEORGE MCARTHUR IN WASHINGTON POST JANUARY 26, FRANCE AND THAILAND HAVE AGREED TO CONTINUATION OF GOF FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON TO BANGKOK. THIS AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY FOLLOWED DISCREET DRV-AIR FRANCE TALKS

WHICH BROUGHT RESUMPTION OF SERVICE FROM SAIGON FOLLOWING
A WEEK'S INTERRUPTION EARLY IN JANUARY. KISSINGER

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